

The FLYER

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 / Student-run newspaper

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ABOUT

The Flyer is Salisbury University's student newspaper-composed by students for students. The organization was established in 1973 to keep to SU community informed and entertained.

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The Flyer strives for accuracy and corrects its errors immediately. If you believe a factual error has been printed, feel free to contact the staff. Thank you.

NEWS

Reliving SU's enduring war against injustice

By Jakob Todd / News Editor

Dating back to the fall semester, SU has undergone a deep dive into the racial prejudices and tensions within the community, almost a parallel to the national civil unrest happening daily across the nation.

In Oct. 2019, a string of racially charged vandalism struck the Fulton School of Liberal Arts over a period of weeks, bringing the issue of systematic injustice to the forefront of the campus community.

A month later, Fulton was vandalized with racist remarks for the fourth time since the semester had begun, which eventually culminated in a student-led protest in Holloway Hall to demand action from administration.

A day after the protest, SU President Charles Wight held a forum in the Guerrieri Academic Commons Assembly Hall to have an open dialogue with the campus community and uncover the deep-seeded grievances felt by members of the university.

Prior to the forum, the SU Student Government Association invited students to join them in front of Fulton before proceeding to the Assembly Hall together in a show of unity, where over 800 students and staff — dressed in all black in solidarity — marched in a collective statement.

The event's turnout heavily exceeded expectations, as the Assembly Hall reached maximum capacity 15 minutes before the forum even began. As a result, the administration was forced to quickly organize overflow rooms in Perdue Hall and Henson Hall for students to receive a broadcast of the forum and submit questions virtually.

President Wight, SU Police Department Chief Edwin Lashley and other key administrators fielded questions from



Emma Reider image

students and expressed their deep disdain for the acts of hate that had taken place across campus over the preceding months, as well as discuss potential solutions to implement in the weeks to come. Lashley insisted that the acts of vandalism were under an "intense, ongoing police investigation" as he reassured campus community members during the forum.

In an attempt to prevent future racially charged attacks, changes implemented by the President's Office included making the Office of Diversity and Inclusion its own independent body and creating the position of chief diversity officer (Joan Williams would eventually be hired for the position in May after a thorough interview process involving the entire campus community). President Wight also commissioned a special task force to aid in developing initiatives for the office to improve campus diversity and support.

However, in Feb., two more incidents of racist acts of vandalism occurred in both Henson Hall and Fulton Hall, respectively.

Following this set of attacks, President Wight announced that all classes would be canceled that Thursday to allow the campus to heal, while many events were also organized to allow for discussion and support for affected students.

Former Salisbury SGA president charged with child pornography solicitation

By Nick Lewis/ Editor

Former Salisbury University Student Government Association President Brendan Link has been charged with six counts of child pornography solicitation, according to charging documents of the District Court for Wicomico County. All six charges are felonies. Each count, if

convicted, carries up to 10 years in federal prison and/or up to \$25,000.

Link was elected president of the SGA in April. He served as the organization's vice president prior to his election. Link published a letter of resignation on Aug. 1 citing "personal matters" that

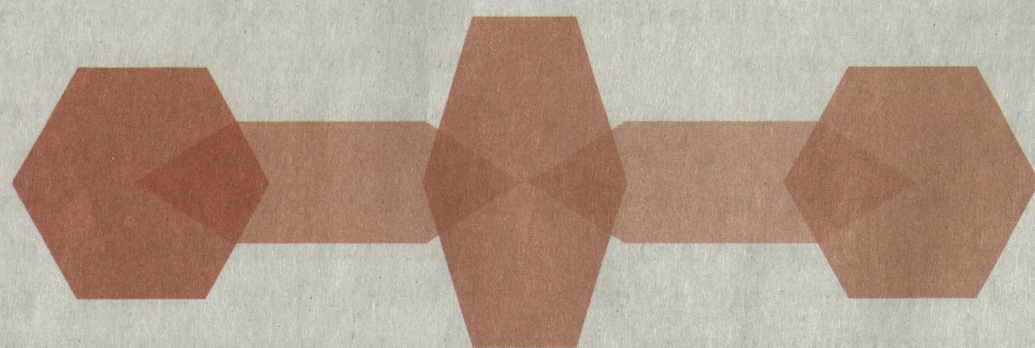
would not allow him to be "able to effectively execute [his] duties and responsibilities that come with the position."

"The SGA executive board was made aware of an ongoing investigation into a former member of our organization," a SGA statement read. "We do not have any other information other than what

Former SGA Solicitation from page 1

has been made public knowledge: he has been charged and the case is ongoing.” The Flyer reached out to Link for comment but received no response. According to the statement of charges, Link, 21, was charged with soliciting a juvenile male. The juvenile’s mother went through her son’s phone while he was sleeping and saw Link was soliciting him for sexual acts and pornography via Snapchat messages, according to police. According to charging documents, Link attempted to persuade the juvenile to let him record the juvenile’s sexual intercourse with females and sell the recording for “a couple hundred.” Link also discussed with the juvenile an encounter he had with another individual where the two performed sexual acts with one another and made \$200-\$300 in a night. According to documents, the juvenile and his mother worked with police to locate Link, where they seized his cell phone for evidence. After obtaining a search warrant on Link’s cellular device, police observed the reported conversation between the two parties. The juvenile reported more inappropriate messages between Link and himself where Link discussed recording each other doing sexual acts, according to police. Link also expressed a desire to participate in live cams. The juvenile told police Link asked him to do live recordings on six separate occasions, according to police. The following events took place in Wicomico County. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Oct. 15, according to charging documents.

Editor’s note: Brendan Link briefly worked as a photographer for The Flyer.



‘Lost’ COVID-19 test results finally being delivered

By Jakob Todd/ News

Despite much of last week’s mandatory COVID-19 testing results being published on Salisbury University’s coronavirus dashboard, numerous students who had their tests administered on Sept. 9 were still left waiting on their results on Sept. 14.

In consequence, these individuals had their access to campus and in-person classes restricted for simply not having a test result — positive or negative — on file from SU’s round of Labor Day testing. Rumors even began to circulate on social media that tests may have been misplaced or lost during processing.

According to Dr. Dane Foust, vice president of Student Affairs, the “lost” results were merely victims of a severe backlog of tests at the University of Maryland, Baltimore lab — not misplaced — and that the remaining results from Sept. 9 were to be published and sent out to recipients Sept. 16. The exact number of students affected by the delay is unknown.

After the latest update, the data for Sept. 9 testing now reflect a 6.3% positivity rate found over 2,118 tests, contributing to a weekly positivity rate of 6.2% for the campus community.

The week’s positivity rate still remains above 5%, a level the SU Public Rela-



-Salisbury University Facebook page.

tions Office has confirmed is enough for the university to strongly consider ceasing in-person operations and closing the campus.

In fact, SU’s weekly positivity rate now exceeds the entire Wicomico County positivity rate — currently sitting at 4.3% — by nearly 2%, which SU President Charles Wight attributes to the county’s different methodology.

Wight has previously stated that other factors such as the university’s “capacity for contact tracing, isolation and taking care of people when they are sick” will also have roles when considering changes to the campus’ operational levels. Dogwood Village is the current site where many of the SU students who have tested positive and were unable to return home are fulfilling their necessary quarantine periods, which can safely house 70 individuals, according to Foust.

SU’s Injustice continued...

Still having yet to uncover the person responsible for any of the attacks at that time — a common point of contention for critics of the administration’s response — SU administrators and campus police worked alongside agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation to help identify the offender.

Near the end of Feb. a suspect was finally identified with the teamwork of the SU Police Department and the FBI, per a press release from the President’s Office. In June 2020, according to an email from the President’s Office, it was reported that 54-year-old Jerome K. Jackson — who has no known connection to Salisbury University — would plead guilty to “maliciously defacing property while demonstrating racial animosity in connection with the racist, misogynistic and threatening vandalism discovered on campus during the 2019-2020 academic year, under Maryland’s hate crime statute.” Jackson accepted responsibility for every incident of vandalism that occurred throughout both semesters. Just days later, in the wake of the summer’s global Black Lives Matter movement, SU community members organized a protest outside the university’s Guerrieri Academic Commons to stand against acts of racially charged violence and police brutality.

Upon the return to campus for the fall semester of the 2020-2021 academic year, a petition circulated calling for the SU administration to implement “zero-tolerance” policies for future acts of discrimination against university members, among other further improvements for diversity and inclusion, led by the SGA’s Director of Diversity and Inclusion Dorien Rogers. In total, the petition received over 200 signatures from students, staff, faculty, alumni and other campus allies.

And finally, the latest incident to plague the university was an inferred noose found on campus grounds, which after a campus police-led investigation, was found to be a bird feeder support infrastructure installed by the SU Biology Department.

After nearly a year of confronting the campus community’s struggles with injustice, Salisbury University continues to work towards an improving the quality of life for persons of diverse backgrounds and welcome better inclusivity in the future one day at a time.

Lost Covid Tests continued...

Foust has also mentioned that the university is pursuing an agreement with a local hotel to help house potential future positive cases of the virus as a “last resort,” though no arrangement is currently in place.

During his weekly COVID-19 briefing on Sept. 17, Wight said that all university members who intend to come to campus this semester will now be tested monthly, barring an exemption from Campus Health, on a “rotating basis” to ensure that there are more days to administer tests and to reduce wait times for those in line.

Thus far, SU has survived three weeks with a combination of in-person, virtual and hybrid-formatted instruction since welcoming students back to campus for the fall semester.

To monitor incoming updates and view more information on the latest COVID-19 test results, visit <https://www.salisbury.edu/coronavirus/testing-info.aspx>.

SU Honors College receives massive \$1.5 million endowment, new name

By Jakob Todd/ News Editor

On Tuesday, Salisbury University held a special event at the school’s Honors House to announce that donors Glenda Chatham and Robert G. Clarke had presented the university with a planned endowment of \$1.5 million for the university’s Honors College.

In turn, SU revealed its plans to rename its Honors College in dedication to its new donors: the Glenda Chatham and Robert G. Clarke Honors College.

The Clarke Honors College is now among the likes of the Charles R. and Martha N. Fulton School of Liberal Arts, Franklin P. Perdue School of Business, Richard A. Henson School of Science and Technology and Samuel W. and Marilyn C. Seidel School of Education as the university’s fifth endowed academic branch.

The Clarkes’ continued support and investment is not limited to just the Clarke Honors College endowment, however, as other philanthropic contributions include a \$300,000 donation for the Nina Dixon and Grover F. Chatham Scholarship of Salisbury University, aiming to bring more of Glenda’s future fellow James M. Bennett High School graduates the college experience she once delighted in.

According to the couple, their journey together was sparked by their many similarities upon arrival to Salisbury University in 1968. Having met in registration lines arranged by last name, Glenda

Chatham and Robert G. Clarke appear to have been brought together by fate. The two were both commuters as well as first-generation college students, which only added to their encounters.

Glenda Chatham Clarke, a former English teacher and reading specialist, and Robert G. Clarke, a former chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges, have spent decades bettering the lives of students in across the country.

“Both of [the Clarkes] are educators, they’re passionate people, and they’re ... good people that want to see the world



-Clarke Honors College Announcement- Robert and Glenda Clarke (left) are honored as SU’s newest donors by President Charles Wight (right). (SU Public Relations Office image)

evolve and want to see us talk about citizenship and what it means to be a global citizen, as well as giving back to one’s community,” said Dr. Andrew Martino, dean of the Clarke Honors College. “The Clarkes are the perfect partnership in my mind [for SU].”

On why the couple decided to pursue an endowment, Robert G. Clarke conveyed that they, “wanted to have something

long-lasting, something that will be there long after [they’re] gone ... [the students] are the future of our country, and we want to make sure that they have all the advantages they possibly can.”

SU President Charles Wight furthered the idea that the endowment will provide unimaginable growth for the campus community in the years to come.

“[The Clarkes’] generosity will impact the lives of our students in ways they and we are unable to predict.”

Current Honors students such as Jack Lennox are immensely appreciative of donors such as the Clarkes actively supporting and believing in the potential contributions that honors students can make for society in the future.

“It’s really important that donors or alumni are able to give back to the school because without that generosity and kindness, students like myself wouldn’t be able to explore the impact that we can have ... and see ourselves through to our success.”

“SU is an integral part of this community, and by supporting SU, President Wight, Dean Martino and others’ efforts ... [donors can] set the foundation for the future,” said Robert G. Clarke.

The Clarke Honors College will continue to encompass its three programs — Belavance, Business and Henson — as the honors community continues to grow and diversify among students interested in a multitude of fields in the coming years.

Suspicious fixture found on SU’s campus

By Allison Guy and Jakob Todd/ Editor-in-chief and News editor

A rope fixture, inferred to be a noose, was found hanging on Salisbury University’s campus. The image circulated on social media before being brought to the attention of the administration last night.

According to an email sent out to the student body by Dane Foust, vice president of Student Affairs, and Joan Williams, associate vice president for Diversity and Inclusion, the fixture “was determined to be the remnants of a support infrastructure for a bird feeder that was developed as part of a SU Green Fund initiative.” The email also reported that, “SU’s Bi-



-Rope: An image of the inferred noose circulated on social media before SU administration became aware of the incident. (BlackatSU Instagram image)

ological Sciences Department has confirmed that it had bird feeders hanging in a few locations on campus ... The feeders were not able to be maintained during

COVID-19 restrictions last semester, so they were removed temporarily, but the ropes were left with the intention that the feeders eventually would be put back up. Today, all materials affiliated with the project have been taken down.”

SU Police took and released a photo of the

object next to a Gull Card to display its relative size, around three inches in height.

SU student Olivia Gray has been outspoken about her reaction to the incident,

Suspicious Fixture continued...

though she does acknowledge that the initial impression of the incident expressed by the community was not entirely accurate. "Originally, I did believe that the hanging rope was a noose hung with the intention to intimidate people of color, specifically the Black community. After the 'investigation' concluded that it was the remanence of a biology project, I can now see how our beliefs were not accurate."

Gray is an active member of the campus community, currently serving on the executive board of SU's Black Student Union, Vanity Modeling and Self Development Club, as well as holding membership in the organization ChangeSU.

Although Gray insists that her grievances extend beyond the surface, as she still "[does] not appreciate the way that the administration handled the incident ... [and] that the administration is constantly undermining and negating the feelings of the minority students, faculty and staff whenever potential racist events occur within the SU community."

Gray continued, citing that "whether the rope was for a bird feeder or not, the images were unsettling. Telling the community that the rope was not a noose and expecting everyone to move on should not be an expectation of the administration. [Administrators] need to realize incidents like these cause students to feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Until that realization is reached by the administration, we will always have racial issues within the SU community."

Foust and Williams added in the email that "[w]hile the angle of the image circulated does not accurately convey the small size and scale of the bird feeder's hanging apparatus, SU officials certainly understand why the image is disturbing. Symbols like that are not representative of our campus and would not be tolerated."

There are a few solutions proposed by Gray that she believes SU administration should closely analyze and consider to enhance the on-campus experience for students of diverse backgrounds. "I believe that more forums and events need to take place on campus. These events should serve to educate others on race and why certain issues and topics are very sensitive to different people. I also believe that taking a course on the history of different minority groups should be [added to] the curriculum."

SU petition tops 200 signatures in fight for change

By Jakob Todd/ News Editor

In the aftermath of a swarm of racially charged attacks throughout the 2019-2020 academic year, members of the Salisbury University community reached a breaking point.

Students and staff alike expressed their frustrations to administrators in the form of protests, demonstrations and written demands for systematic change and a renewed call for diversity and inclusion on campus.

One such initiative was undertaken by junior Dorian Rogers, who is currently entering his second year of service as the SU Student Government Association's director of diversity and inclusion, with an all-inclusive petition for change at the university.

"I created the 'Enough is Enough' Petition because of the racial bigotry discovered within members of our campus community with a visible level of comfort ... due to the unlikelihood of facing consequences from entities within our community. This petition calls for disciplinary action to be delivered for individuals such as these."

Further, Rogers' petition pushed for SU administration to enact an explicit "zero-tolerance" policy on acts of discrimination, as well as renew the contract of Annette Johnson, coordinator for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, whose work he believes, "inspired many members of the campus community to apply what they've learned to develop action-oriented solutions to promote change within our communities, within our institution and within ourselves."

In just over two months, the "Enough is Enough" Petition garnered more than 200 signatures from students — undergraduates, graduates and prospective students included — as well as alumni, staff, faculty, student organizations and other allies of the university in a united call for action.

Yet, Rogers credits most of the support to his fellow students, as he has received overwhelmingly silent responses from faculty, staff and administration.

"I believe students were more alert and engaged than faculty and staff members. Although it was over the summer, which made it difficult to spread the word, students were still engaged. For faculty, I emailed all [435] faculty members — including the faculty senate — on the first deadline and only heard back from five."

Dr. Eric Ritinger, a professor of political science at SU, was one of the few staff or faculty members at the university to openly support and sign the petition.

"I support students who are standing up for 'diversity and inclusion.' These are values that the university itself says it wants to promote. To foster an effective learning environment, we all must treat each other with civility and respect, even as we debate contentious issues."

When asked how confident he is about the demands of the petition being implemented, Rogers said, "[it] depends on how much members of our community, especially students, want to see systemic change at SU. We can repost, we can wear 'Black Lives Matter' shirts, but if we don't apply actions to our words, we fall victim to the historical cycle of inaction. Although we're here as students for [only] four to six years, we must be consistent and resilient to ensure short-and long-term change long after we've left."

While the petition's deadline has passed, Rogers still encourages all members of the SU community to continue to push for systematic change and express their desire for inclusivity by reaching out to members of the university's faculty senate, contacting local congressional representatives and holding accountability in the highest regard for everyone on campus.

Future goals for Rogers and his counterparts include securing a separate diversity and inclusion general education requirement for all SU students, as well as an expansion of diversity training for both students and faculty at the university.

To view the "Enough is Enough" Petition and messages from its signees, please use the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xkwvHyPWn1mWjLz3lCW2qqkVIQZkSpt7xLJJvZY2Jg/mobilebasic>

WANT TO WRITE FOR NEWS?

**CONTACT JAKOB TODD
FOR INFORMATION**

jtodd7@gulls.salisbury.edu



Students, staff, faculty and campus allies have all expressed their intense desire for change at SU. (Emma Reider image)

Students adjust to COVID-19 pandemic

By Allison Guy/ Editor-in-Chief

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, our world has been turned upside down. Large in-person gatherings such as backyard barbecues and pool parties are events of the past, as we now rely more heavily on technology in order to see loved ones.

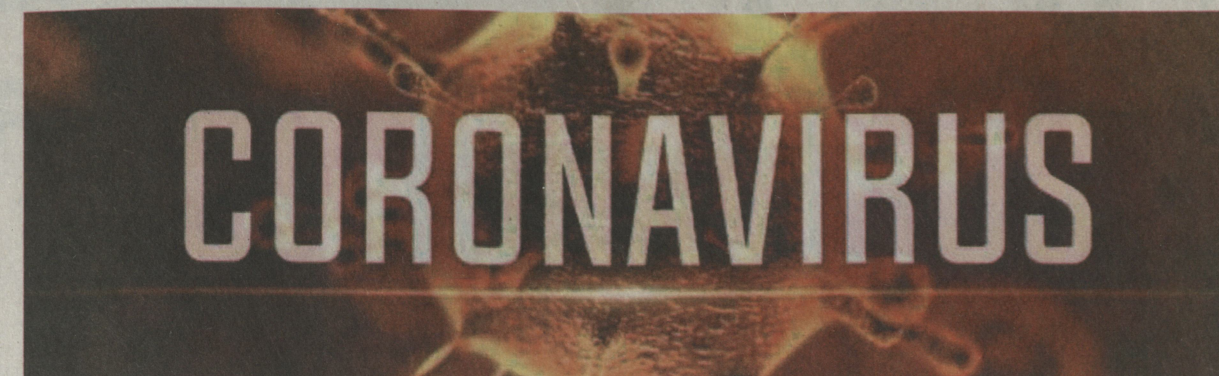
Likewise, the way that Salisbury University students have been socializing reflects the changes in our pandemic-driven present. Many students are relying more heavily on digital communication rather than in-person communication in order to keep in touch with friends and family.

For Elli Larsen, a freshman with a double major in early childhood education and elementary education, a recent move across the country has complicated her ability to get to know the town she moved to.

"I'm from Southern California, and I just moved to Delaware, so it's [her social life] definitely changed with the pandemic cause it's kept us inside more and not able to kind of go out and explore the area ... it's definitely made it harder to do things in person, and everything's been so technology-driven ..." Larsen explained.

Larsen also pointed out that she relies on Facetime, text messaging and the website Zoom, the platform which hosts SU's online classes, to keep in touch with others. She is also looking forward to joining the staff of The Saunterer, the newsletter of the Clarke Honors College. Like many organizations, The Saunterer will be holding its meetings online.

"I think, the first thing that I've really started to get into is ... looking to join



-SU has had hundreds of COVID-19 cases reported just two weeks into the fall semester. (WTMV image)

The Saunterer staff ... I feel like it will be interesting to communicate in that environment virtually."

She additionally expressed a desire to get involved with SU's other virtual activities, which provides a safe way for students to be entertained and social with their peers.

"I know SU's had a lot of online activities that have been trying to get everyone involved ... I really enjoy trivia, so I'm hoping to do some of the virtual trivia events sometime in the future," Larsen said.

In addition to changed modes of socialization, students such as Larsen are also having to deal with the challenges that come with remote instruction for classes.

"Being at home is difficult because there's a lot more distractions, so just trying to be able to focus on my work is definitely a little bit more difficult ..." Larsen added.

Sophomore nursing major, Jada Jackson, had similar experiences. She noted that the pandemic has changed her social life too.

"I definitely don't get to see friends as often, or ever. I haven't really seen anybody that I don't live with, so it's [her social life] definitely changed a lot," Jackson stated.

Like Larsen, Jackson has also used the website Zoom to keep in contact with loved ones.

"We're having family Zoom calls and stuff like that, so that's a good way to stay in contact with people now," Jackson said.

She added that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused her to have difficulty making new friends on campus.

"I haven't really been able to meet anybody because you're staying six feet apart from everybody," Jackson stated.

Students like Jackson have also taken precautions, especially when it comes to socializing in person, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"I know my roommates and I aren't doing guests, so I guess we're being super safe ..." Jackson added.

Larsen and Jackson may just be two of SU's many students, but their stories echo a truth about the time we're living in: students, like anyone else, have had to adjust to the COVID-19 pandemic. Though that adjustment looks different for everyone, many students have found new ways to fulfill their social needs while keeping themselves and others safe.

Surge of COVID-19 cases plagues SU campus

By Jakob Todd and Nick Lewis/ News Editor and Sports Editor

Of the 3,489 COVID-19 tests conducted Monday and Tuesday Sept. 7th and 8th, 229 came back positive, according to the most recent Salisbury University coronavirus data available prior to publication of this article, 11:30 a.m. the morning of Sept. 11.

These results place the current positivity rate at 6.5%, roughly the same as Wicomico County as a whole, according to the email.

The university positivity rate also currently stands nearly three points above the state positivity rate, per the Salisbury University COVID-19 Dashboard.

On Tuesday, 1,977 members of the community — predominately students — were tested, with 166 tests returning positive samples for the virus.

"Our goal for positivity rate is be-

low 5%," a recent Stay Informed email said. "Results from [Wednesday's] tests, expected [during the] weekend, will determine whether we have met that objective."

Wednesday marked the final day of a consecutive three-day mandatory testing period ordered by SU President Charles Wight prior to the Labor Day holiday.

During his weekly virtual COVID-19 briefing Thursday, Wight cited the advice of public health officials in that "a seven-day average [positivity rate], not a single batch of tests," is more accurate to examine "when making data-driven decisions related to COVID-19." Hence, the administration did not enact any drastic changes following the public release of Monday and Tuesday's surge in positive cases as they awaited Wednesday's test results.

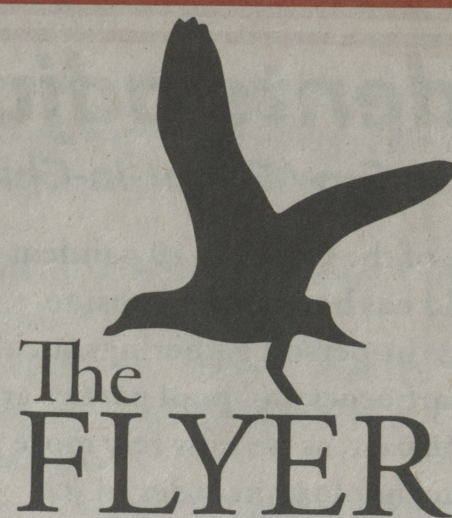
In fact, Wight conveyed that "based

on the current information that we have [Thursday] morning, we are not anticipating any immediate change in the level of campus operations, but this could change as more results come in."

Wight did note that other factors, such as SU's "capacity for contact tracing, isolation, and taking care of people when they are sick" will have roles when considering changes to the university's operational levels. Wight also commended the "athletic training staff, nursing faculty and other volunteers across campus [who] pitched in to pull this [large testing volume] off ... to best support the health and safety of our faculty, staff, students and the surrounding community. —

Thus far, SU has survived 10 days with a combination of in-person, virtual and hybrid-formatted instruction since welcoming students back to campus for the fall semester. To monitor incoming updates and view more information on the latest COVID-19 test results, visit <https://www.salisbury.edu/coronavirus/testing-info.aspx>.

Editorial



Do SU minority students feel safe?

By Olivia Ballmann/Editorial Editor

It's no secret that Salisbury University has had an unfortunate series of discriminative and racist occurrences both on and off campus.

In previous semesters, SU witnessed threatening, discriminative and racist vandalism written within the Fulton and Henson buildings.

More recently, the university faced racist text messages as well as noose-resembling bird feeding structures, both of which were unsettling to SU students.

Racism and discrimination are still major problems that SU minority students face, causing many to call for direct action this semester.

"I do feel safe. However, I do not feel comfortable," Dorian Rogers, a junior majoring in political science and international studies, explained.

Although Rogers acknowledged the new initiatives the university has taken, such as weekly briefings from SU President Charles Wight, he feels that administration needs to focus on taking direct action.

"What action-oriented solutions are they bringing to the table based on the opinions of the students and faculty?"

A series of racist text messages was reported this summer; however, Rogers felt first amendment was used as an excuse for administration to sustain from reprimanding the students involved.

"We know freedom of speech is embedded within our way of life, but that does not mean actions do not come with consequence," Rogers explained.

Rogers would have preferred administration to be more vocal, defending minority students who were impacted by the racist messages.

"It [administrative action] would have made me feel safer and more comfortable because at least I would know someone is fighting for me."

Rogers also feels education could be greatly improved, as only incoming students are required to partake in online diversity training.

Rogers recalls the failed Diversity Inclusion General Education Requirement motion, a motion in which diversity and inclusion would have become a general education requirement at SU.

"If the same people keep showing up to the same dialogue of diversity inclusion,



BLM Photo: Protestors rally together to support the Black Lives Matter Movement during the summer outside Guerrieri Academic Commons.

are you bringing any more change to the community?" Rogers would like SU to revisit the Diversity Inclusion General Education Requirement motion, as it would affect all students, not just a fraction of the SU community.

Keona Kyler, a junior majoring in communications, agrees that changes to SU's administration are crucial to supporting SU's minority students.

"I think they say they care, but actions speak louder than words," Kyler expressed.

Kyler recalls the shockingly slow response administration had following the racist vandalism incident that occurred during the 2019 fall semester.

"They should have written something within an hour of them knowing."

Kyler had also noticed administrative action was only taken after students had spoken up.

"I feel like this school doesn't do enough to make safety a priority for minority students."

In addition to improved communication between administration and students, Kyler would like to see SU students take further action toward educating themselves and others.

Kyler explained that student organizations, such as SGA and SOAP, could play a greater role in educating students about

diversity through their platforms and activities.

Kyler believes this all circles back to the importance of educating administration, students and even campus police.

"It's really about communication and presence," Kyler stated.

Taylor Davis, a senior English major, hopes that SU will work to create a better dynamic between campus police and minority students.

"With some black students, even if they've never been in trouble, we've had a bad relationship with police."

Davis recalls an experience in which she was brought into an interrogation room shortly after receiving a parking ticket. Davis remembers thinking, "No one else has ever gone into the police station for a ticket."

In the room, Davis was then asked if she had been involved in a motor vehicle incident that occurred the night before, but she wasn't.

However, Davis felt the officer only questioned her because the two boys involved in the accident the night before were African American.

"It felt that way because it was two boys that I've never seen before, and they both happened to be black."

Davis stressed the importance of creating a more positive relationship between minority students and campus police.

"I feel like there might be an issue with [the] SU [Police Department] ... they may need to train them differently, [like including] cultural training, so there is a better relationship ..."

Additionally, many minority students need to feel as though they can trust administration to act quickly when racism or discriminative events occur.

At the time, Davis felt there was no reason to approach administration, as she believed they would not have been able to support her.

"I felt like they weren't going to do anything at all," Davis concluded.

Many minority students at Salisbury University are uncomfortable, and not all students feel safe. Changes need to be made to fix this.

Thus, many minority students are asking that all members of the Salisbury community strive to address and support racial and discriminative concerns through action and involvement.

Commons critique: Students long for healthier food options

By Olivia Ballman/Editorial Editor

Returning SU students are likely to notice a big difference when entering Commons, not only in terms of COVID-19 regulations but in food as well.

Abby Snayberger, a sophomore finance major, is pleased with the actions taken to socially distance students, but feels as though food options are limited, especially healthy food options.

"They don't have as much of a spread," recalled Snayberger, noting the salad bar had fewer customizable options.

However, the one change that has impacted Snayberger the most is the absence of the Commons Bistro.

"I don't think eliminating bistro was the best idea because that's pretty much the only reason I got a meal plan this year ..."

explained Snayberger. "I was kind of excited to be able to still keep healthy eating while being at school, and then I got here and that was eliminated."

Snayberger also expressed empathy toward students with specific diets, such as vegans, as their options seemed even more limited.

"There's usually like one vegan option," reflected Snayberger, feeling for those with vegan diets.

Although Snayberger is not a vegan herself, she still misses the variety of healthy food choices.

"I loved having healthy options ..." Snayberger said.

But Snayberger also recognizes the efforts Commons has made to keep students as safe as possible.

"It's very clean in there [Commons].

Everything is pre-packaged ... the only people that are touching your food are the workers, and they have gloves on, and their whole mask and shield ..."

Lauren Karrh, a sophomore biology major, also expressed her longing for healthier food options.

"It's harder to get fresh veggies and things like that," Karrh commented.

"There's definitely a few less options and the same things [foods] kind of repeat," acknowledged Karrh.

Karrh suggested that the grab-and-go should be healthier as well.

"Have more things that are grab-and-go, like grab-and-go parfaits and salads," suggested Karrh.

Although healthier options were a con-



Commons Photo: The outside of Commons.

cern for Karrh, Karrh, like Snayberger, understands the reasoning behind the limited options.

"It's definitely a hard time to be making changes and they're [Commons] doing the best they can with what they got," Karrh reasoned.

Regarding safety, Karrh feels Commons is following COVID guidelines and restrictions well.

"It was definitely good to see them having safe precautions in effect," reflected Karrh.

Although many would admit healthier options should be taken into further consideration, most students feel that Commons has done a fantastic job of keeping SU students safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recreational facilities are open again... seriously?

By Olivia Ballman/Editorial Editor

If you've been checking your email recently, you've probably done a double take or two regarding the re-opening of recreational and athletic facilities on campus.

Although on-campus gyms within housing buildings remain closed, the same cannot be said for Maggs Physical Activities Center, University Fitness Center or even Salisbury University's tennis courts. On Tuesday, Sept. 15, Matthew A. Nien, the manager of Fitness and Facilities at SU, announced that recreational facilities would become available once again to SU students.

Wait a minute- come again?

On Friday, Sept. 4, The President's Office and Housing House released emails to students announcing the close of recreational facilities on campus.

The President's Office had announced this after a recent rise in COVID-19 cases, 10 to be exact, according to the email. The President's Office email had explicitly stated:

"Out of an abundance of caution, campus athletic and recreational facilities,

including Maggs Physical Activities Center, the University Fitness Club, tennis courts and intramural fields, will be closed until further notice."

The Housing House's email was almost identical adding that student gyms within on-campus housing would be closed as well.

However, this closure was only temporary as we've seen that facilities are available to students once again.

Now, this is confusing for several reasons. The first being the rise of COVID-19 cases on campus since the closing of recreational and athletic facilities.

According to the most recent COVID-19 test results, which were released Sept. 15, there have been 372 positive cases documented on campus. You'll notice that this is significantly higher than the 10 positive tests reported within The President's Office's email on Sept. 4.

If recreational facilities on campus were closed, "out of caution," during a time in which there were 10 cases, why re-open

them when there have been 372 cases?! Many students are shaking their heads at this fact alone, and I don't blame them. However, if you're like me, you've likely given SU the benefit of the doubt.

Maybe they've created new guidelines for recreational facilities, and that's why they're re-opening?

Unfortunately, this is not the case.

On Aug. 27, students were informed that recreational facilities would be open to students again, giving students hours of operation for facilities as well as specific guidelines for using the facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sound familiar?

The most recent email sent announcing the re-opening of the recreational facilities was issued Sept. 15, and it was practically identical!

The only difference: a phone number to contact the indoor tennis courts- which doesn't even open until Oct. 5.

Regardless, guidelines have not changed.

Many would think that if the recreational facilities were to re-open, that additional guidelines would have been...

Recreational Facilities continued...

put in place. Otherwise, why re-open them?

If they were closed before due to a rise of COVID cases, why open them now when reported COVID cases are even higher?

In my opinion, it doesn't make sense as to why recreational facilities would even consider re-opening.

Most of the equipment in such facilities requires touch which is something that has been discouraged time and time again during this pandemic.

And although the recreational and athletic facilities positively contribute to student health, there are other ways to be physically active without going to the gym.

Salisbury University has a beautiful scenic campus which is perfect for going on walks or runs.

Salisbury University is also conveniently located twenty minutes away from Pemberton Park which has numerous hiking trails. Additionally, there are SU clubs such as Changing Health Attitudes and Actions to Recreate Girls (CHAARG), who have found ways to be physically active and engaged within their own homes, dorms and/or apartments.

Maybe this isn't ideal for everyone, and that's completely understandable, especially considering the specific equipment that Maggs and UFC provide.

If COVID-19 weren't a factor, I'm sure everyone would love for athletic and recreational facilities to be available. I would too.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic is still a threat to the health of students, staff and faculty, as we've seen with recent SU COVID-19 results.

As such, we need to take proper pre-caution, even if it means re-closing recreational facilities.

SU comments: Are masks a violation of one's rights?

By Olivia Ballmann/ Editorial Editor

Although shocking to believe, some people, referred to as "anti-maskers," are protesting public mask requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite their already infamous reputation in the media, Salisbury University students and staff are speaking out against anti-masking trends.

Rojan Matthew, a sophomore pre-med student, believes that anti-masking is not a violation of one's rights.

"Is it a violation of one's rights? I would say no because I don't think it is violating anyone's rights. Yes, we have the right to express our feelings and emotion, but at the same time, it is very important to follow the rules for the benefit of the community."

But why don't anti-maskers feel the same?

Matthew believes that one's experience, or lack thereof, may affect how thorough they are when following mask requirements.

"It's their lack of understanding, knowledge or experience..." stated Matthew. Although anti-maskers are not respecting COVID-19 regulations, Matthew believes that most SU students are.

"Yes, SU students are taking social distancing procedures seriously. They do know the seriousness of COVID. They make sure they obey the rules and regulations to make sure they keep themselves and others safe," explained Matthew.

"We're all in the same boat. We're all getting the same message."

Dr. Mary DiBartolo, SU nursing professor and member of the COVID-19 Health and Safety Task Force, agrees that anti-masking is not a violation of one's rights.

"We are in the midst of a global pandemic, and for the health and safety of everyone, we have to wear the mask when indicated, and correctly covering both the nose and mouth..." DiBartolo stated. When asked about why anti-maskers are fighting the mask requirements, DiBartolo has several theories.

"There seems to be a small percentage of the population who believe that it is their right to not wear a mask even though we are experiencing a global health crisis. There have been some mixed messages in the media, which have caused some confusion as well. The scientific evidence supports that wearing a mask does reduce the transmission of this virus."

To avoid the spread of misinformation in

the media, DiBartolo stressed the importance of using reliable sources.

"We just have to keep getting the word out from the CDC, NIH and other well-respected health organizations that wearing a mask, as well as social distancing and washing the hands, are the three key things that we can do to protect ourselves, our peers and our loved ones from this virus."

Presently, DiBartolo believes a majority of SU students are following the COVID-19 regulations.

"On campus, I've seen the majority of people wearing masks; the SU students are doing their part..."

Although Dr. DiBartolo believes most students are following COVID-19 guidelines, she stresses the importance of continuing to follow such regulations.

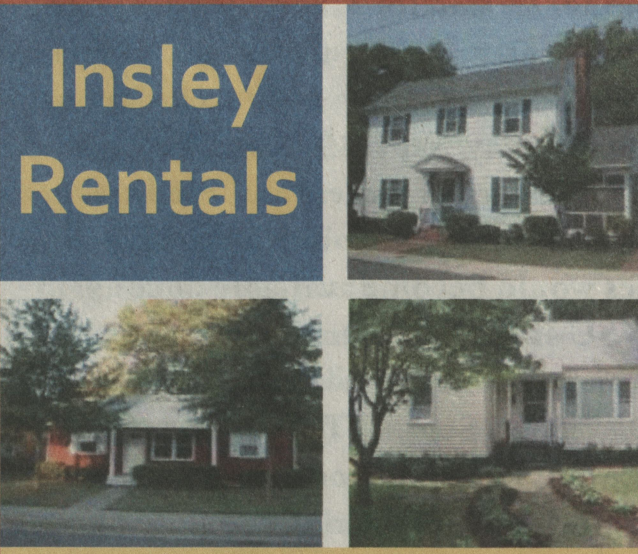
"I think we all just have to work together, faculty, staff, students, everyone..."

"We have to protect ourselves and do the right thing."

Like DiBartolo, many believe most SU students are actively following the regulations and guidelines to the best of their ability.

As previously emphasized by DiBartolo, "It is critically important to do the right thing and wear the mask."

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SU freshmen: The benefits of having a random roommate

By Olivia Ballmann/ Editorial Editor

A random roommate assignment can spike student nerves regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic, but many SU freshmen optimistically report that they wouldn't have it any other way.

Salisbury University has many housing options; however, many freshmen are in double rooms, meaning they'll likely be sharing living space with a roommate.

Aaron Cave, a freshman accounting major, recalls feeling a bit apprehensive before starting school.

"With the COVID thing going on, I guess I may have been a little nervous at first, knowing that a total stranger was coming and moving in with me," Cave recalled.

However, despite initial nerves, Cave expresses the COVID-19 testing requirements significantly reduced his anxiety about his housing situation.

"...Especially after we got tested the first two weeks before coming on campus, I was a little more confident I'd be safe on campus."

Many freshmen, like Cave, also feel that the pandemic has allowed them to become close to their roommates.

"It's easier to make friends when with people in your dorm. He's [Cave's roommate] one of my closer friends, I'd say," Cave noted.

Although Cave feels his freshmen college

experience is different from most, he appreciates that he's still been able to create friendships.

"We just kind of bonded in a different way, but we still did it."

Socializing has become more difficult for almost every college student, but SU freshmen are faced with the difficult task of creating close friendships while also practicing social distancing.

As such, freshmen have gotten creative socializing with one another, which is



-Chester Hall Photo: Chester Hall, one of the many freshman dorms at Salisbury University.

where having a random roommate can come in handy.

Meghan Reed, a freshman biology major,

and her roommate have found safe ways to have fun despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We actually watched a movie together yesterday, which was really nice. We plan to try and do that maybe once a week just to get some time with each other."

Reed believes the pandemic has strengthened her relationship with her roommate as well.

"With the pandemic, we've been able to spend more time together and get the chance to talk."

"I think a lot of people feel the need to have someone that they know or some-

one that they're close with, at least for freshman year, so that they can adjust to the situation [first year of college]," noted Reed.

Reed expressed she would much rather be placed with a random roommate during the COVID-19 pandemic than in a single room alone.

"It [a random roommate assignment] gives me someone to hang out with, it's like a guaranteed friend..." reflected Reed.

Many freshmen are experiencing a different first year of college, with the additional challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, most SU freshmen are thankful for their random roommates, knowing they don't have to face these challenges alone.

Too close for comfort: SU students unhappy with COVID-19 testing

Olivia Ballmann/ Editorial Editor

Many of Salisbury University's students feel unsettled in regard to SU COVID-19 testing and how it was handled.

Monday through Wednesday, SU COVID-19 testing took place, testing all students and faculty following Labor Day weekend.

This initiative was sparked after a recent rise in coronavirus cases on campus.

However, some students fear this may have only made things worse.

Nicole Demchuk, a junior, was shocked to see no action had been taken to socially distance the many students awaiting COVID-19 testing.

"... In the lines we are literally a foot away from each other."

Demchuk was just one of many students who were unhappy with how COVID-19 testing was conducted.

Taylor Windmiller, a sophomore majoring in political science, was also disturbed by how SU COVID-19 testing was handled.

"I saw the big crowd of people, and it didn't seem too safe... it was hard to keep more than a three-foot distance," Windmiller stated, recalling the unsettling scene of the testing site.

After forty-five minutes of waiting in line, Windmiller was concerned about the people she had been exposed to, especially people who were uncovering their masks due to the heat.

"People were getting hot and were taking their masks off," Windmiller recalled.

"I texted my mom and told her if I don't have it [the coronavirus] now, I'll definitely have it tomorrow."

"It's the same as going to a party at this point... I feel like I just went to a party," expressed Windmiller, noting that until testing she had only been around the people she was living with.

Windmiller and others felt that testing should have been organized differently.

"They could have done it [COVID-19 testing] so much better."

Windmiller felt Red Square would have made a better testing site considering the larger space and would have preferred testing time to be organized in quick five-minute increments.

Windmiller also felt organizers should have placed space markers to promote social distancing.

"I was trying to keep six feet, but there were so many people, it was almost impossible."

After COVID-19 testing Windmiller worries about her own health but also



-COVID Testing Photo: SU students await mandatory COVID-19 testing while clustered in waiting lines.

the health of others, especially those with underlying medical conditions.

It raises questions as to whether people with such conditions should have been notified about the crowded testing experience beforehand.

Regardless of underlying health conditions, some students like Jada Jackson, a sophomore nursing major, did not feel safe.

Jackson recalled her first thoughts, "This is not safe. We're probably going to get corona here because there's so many people."

Jackson can attest to the fact that students were not social distancing.

"They tried [the students] there was just

Covid-19 Testin continued...

too many people ...” Jackson confirmed.

Jackson claimed she would have gotten testing elsewhere if SU testing had not been required.

“We were so close together, for so long. I stayed in line for an hour,” Jackson stated, feeling as though the wait time for the tests was excessively long.

“They had a really big space; they just had too many people ... no matter where they decide to do it, it’s just too many people and too short a time period.”

In addition to the long wait, Jackson, like many students, noticed the testing site itself could have greatly improved its organization.

“There were people [student volunteers and organizers] there, telling people what to do; it was so very confusing as to where we were supposed to go, and they definitely weren’t enforcing social distancing.”

“I know that they’re [SU administration] trying; they’re doing what they can,” Jackson acknowledged.

Jackson also hoped changes would be made if university-wide testing were to happen again.

“I would definitely like there to be an option to go off campus, like if they have a car or something, so the burden of testing doesn’t fall to the school testing facilities.”

“This just wasn’t a good idea,” Jackson said feeling as though SU COVID testing should have been organized differently, and unfortunately, many students have to agree.

Gull Life

SU’s Mental Health Advocates Club promotes mental wellbeing during COVID-19

By Laura Amrhein/ Staff Writer

The fall 2020 semester is a completely different semester that has never been experienced before. Students are doing many classes virtually, clubs and organizations hold meetings over Zoom and students on campus must wear a mask and stay six feet apart at all times.

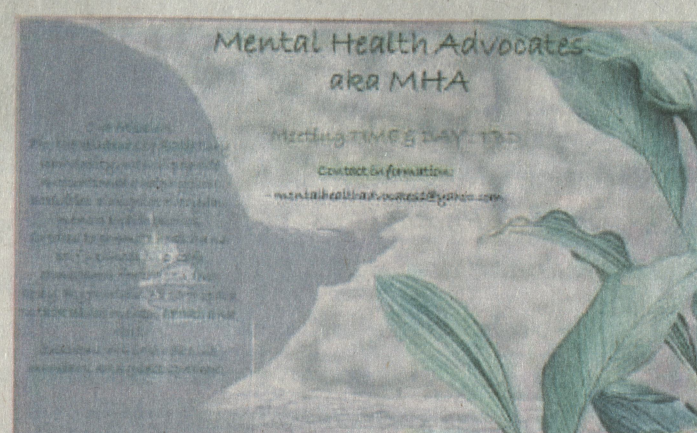
While many college students deal with mental health issues, such as stress and anxiety, during the school year, such issues are often even more heightened due to the pandemic. Not only do students have to worry about their grades and classes, but they also now must worry about following COVID guidelines and whether they have been exposed to the virus or not.

A relatively new club at Salisbury University, Mental Health Advocates, is working to help students manage their mental health both now and in college in general.

“The purpose of the club is to create a safe space for students at SU and even members of the community who want to join, so that they have people to come to, people who they know that they can confide in ... and it won’t get out because we do have nondisclosure agreements. On top of that, it’s not just a safe space. We give tactics, do activities ...” said JaNya Odom, psychology major and the Mental Health Advocates president.

While they are not counselors, the leaders and members of the Mental Health Advocates Club use their own personal experiences, mental health background and outside resources, like guest speakers, to help serve student needs.

“In one of the meetings they were recommending us to download some apps such as Gratitude ... and things of that nature just to help us during our free time if we are ever struggling with our men-



Mental health advocates information flyer (or Mental Health Advocates Mission statement) - Photo credit: to Airanna Musser

tal health. They also suggested that we can put things out in our group chat on GroupMe if we ever need encouragement or support. They also like to send out little encouraging messages,” said Senior Micaela Shirley, a member of the club. In the previous semester, the club held multiple events such as a meditation session, where they focused on breathing techniques, yoga, writing and journaling activities and more. While the pandemic makes it more challenging to hold such events, the MHA will still be offering events to students, but usually they will be held virtually.

“The plan for moving forward this year is of course to do it over Zoom, but I do plan to [have] anyone who lives close to me will meet once a week if they can ... and do physical activities, because it’s not just mental and emotional work that we have to do, there are physical things that we need to do too,” said Odom. Even if unable to participate in the events that MHA will be offering, Odom has several tips and coping skills that she recommends students use if feeling anxious, depressed, and/or overwhelmed.

“My biggest one [tip] would be to take a break when it’s necessary ... so just as simple as taking like five minutes in between studying or doing homework to just focus on breathing or to just evaluate your thoughts,” said Odom.

Odom also suggests getting outside or using a therapy technique to help you reduce the feeling of being overwhelmed. “Take five minutes to go for a walk, honestly that’s the biggest tip I could ever give. When you’re like sitting in one place for too long or anything like that just take five minutes to go take a walk. Go step outside, breathe, [use a technique,] it’s called grounding. So it’s like [you name] five things you can see, four things you can hear, three things you can smell, two things you taste and then one thing you can physical feel,” Odom said. Odom also recognizes that everyone’s mental health is different and that what may work for one person may not work for another. Therefore, she recommends figuring out what works best for you. “Just figure out in between all the things that we do, what tailors to you, to help you take care of yourself, because I would like to give [out] all the things that I know, but that’s not always going to work.”

Like Odom, Shirley has her own methods and tips for keeping her mental health in check, especially during the pandemic. Her approach focuses on keeping a positive mindset.

“I would say try to keep an open mind [and] try to stay positive as much as you can. Of course, given the circumstances that we are under that can be difficult from time to time because everything is up in the air and uncertain at this point. However, that doesn’t mean that we can’t stay positive for the future,” Shirley said. Taking care of your mental health is important now more than ever, and joining Mental Health Advocates is a great step towards doing so. If you or someone you know is really struggling, do not be afraid to reach out to a member in the community that you trust.

Clubs and organizations respond to COVID-19 pandemic

By Stephanie Rivera/ Gull Life Editor

Although our current social and political climate is filled with uncertainty, you can still count on Salisbury University clubs and organizations. On-campus clubs and organizations are still counting on student body involvement and have rewired the traditional format of their meetings and events to ensure the safety of all persons within.

Student Emily Donaldson divulged into her concerns with on-campus club participation, an explanatory factor for the majority of the student body: “My biggest concern is ensuring that everyone involved within these organizations is employing practices that will limit the spread of coronavirus.”

“With everything going on, I want to make sure that I am not putting myself in danger through my participation,” Donaldson explained.

Donaldson’s concerns highlight the general state of hesitation to participate within campus clubs and have caused a general depletion in members throughout. On-campus organizations are here solely for the students’ benefit, and our health is their main priority.

Campus clubs have employed a range of precautions within to promote student involvement and ensure that all participants are comfortable joining their organizations. Club involvement can range from entirely virtual, or through socially distanced campus meetings and events.

Fraternity and sorority groups are still on the hunt for new members for their upcoming recruitment season, while simultaneously ensuring the safety of their participants. Many are holding meetings on Zoom and on campus and have altered the traditional formal recruitment to be accessible virtually.

“Holding meetings on Zoom is still a great way to promote the bonding



Students Brooke Caracci and Claire Owen of Alpha Sigma Tau pictured at Student Activities Fair: Photo credit to @astbetamu on Instagram

of our sisters and still form connections while actively social distancing,” Carleigh Stokes commented on the alterations within Alpha Sigma Tau. “We are in the process of planning events in which we can still social distance, such as an on-campus scavenger hunt and an outdoor movie night.”

Although the recruitment process will be altered in fraternities and sororities respectively, students still have the ability to participate within these organizations and create lifelong bonds with their brothers and sisters.

Sorority sister Taylor Windmiller explained it best, “We want people to know that we are still here and though things have changed, every one of us is in this together.”

Participation within the numerous organizations offered through campus is more important than ever, all made possible through the precautions employed to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Each respective club has created ways to still be active within the organization, with many employing a mixture of Zoom meetings and socially distanced events.

Mental Health Advocates group

Healthy living in Zoom University

By Stephanie Rivera/ Gull Life Editor

Between quarantine, social distancing and the shift to virtual learning, many are looking for ways to incorporate salutary living within their daily lives. The Salisbury University Gardening Club has taken all these concerns and found a way to provide formidable solutions to these new-age dilemmas.

The Gardening Club members aim to improve the health of students and the surrounding community, while incorporating ecologically conscious techniques to advocate for environmentalist practices. The Gardening Club utilizes the principles of Bio-Intensive System of Gardening, in which the gardening techniques of Bio-Intensive and French-Intensive are intertwined throughout.

Bio-Intensive System of Gardening is employed as it is known as an ecologically conscious technique, with members relying on deep soil preparation and the close spacing of crops planted. To minimize and potentially eliminate the usage of fossil fuels the organization employs the practice of composting as the primary source of soil fruitfulness.

The club utilizes its unique mode of gardening, Bio-Intensive, to harness the forces of nature to their benefit rather than working in opposition to them.

The Gardening Club advocates for healthy living through sustainable living practices and encourages students to live an organic lifestyle. The average college student may not readily have access to organic food options, so this is why each student is encouraged to take the fruits

member Marl Cimiluca divulged into the importance of the social interactions provided through on-campus clubs, as increased isolation has prompted the rise of mental health issues within our society: “We are following the path of our mission to promote health and self-wellness and aim to provide the students with a safe atmosphere where they feel comfortable.”

Cimiluca then divulged into his fear of a lack of student participation due to our current educational environment, a concern explicit through the majority of organizational clubs on campus.

As the number of COVID cases rises and social distancing becomes a social normality, participation within the organizations offered through the university is more essential now than ever. The organizations provide an outlet for students to be socially active with their constituents, while ensuring that these interactions are safe for each party involved.

The uncharted territory that we have found ourselves in has created a confluence of confusion on the status of many clubs, but the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership is employing ways for students to still be active on campus. Its mission is to provide opportunities to improve the quality of campus life and the surrounding community and is actively creating safe ways for club participation.

For further concerns on the status of clubs and organizations, contact Center for Student Involvement and Leadership in GSU 125 or at 410-543-6125. For information on ways to be active on campus, visit <https://salisbury.campuslabs.com/engage/>



-Photo Credit: Darren Carter

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and vegetables home and find ways to incorporate them into their daily routine.

"The club is a great way to meet new people, experience new modes of gardening and to give students a reason to go outdoors," member Shyane Carter expressed. "It gives people the ability to work for their food, and we hope to encourage a healthy style of living."

As the coronavirus has revealed, encouraging students to utilize a health-conscious lifestyle is more important than ever. The organization has taken precautionary measures to help limit the transmission within the club proceedings, ensuring that all students who actively garden will be socially distanced and wearing facemasks.

Being able to grow your own produce is a life-long skill, and one that Carter feels is essential given the current global climate regarding the pandemic.

"Growing your own fruits and vegetables ensures that no cross-contamination can occur, as the products in the store are withered and could have been exposed to the virus," Carter explained. "Through our organization, we can ensure purely organic produce that simultaneously encourages ways to garden with the least environmental impact."

Student Government Representative for the club Ajay Draper encourages students from other organizations to participate within the organization, emphasizing the need for Fraternity and Sorority participation. "The Garden Club would love to collaborate with any Fraternity or Sorority that is looking for community service." "We have garden beds that need weeding, and their service would go towards growing sustainable organic food for the



-View of Community Garden, detailing the mission of the Student Organic Garden Project, and Eco-Awareness Garden Project : Photo Credits to Stephanie Rivera

community," Draper explained. Draper encourages every student to participate within the organization, and explains the ideology of the organization in which, "Students are able to meet with like-minded people who are nature lovers and actually are able to experience being out within nature."

"It is a great way to surround yourself with people who share your concerns and interests for the environment, but we encourage all students to participate and absorb ways to be ecologically conscious in their everyday life," Draper ensured.

The promotion of health is a core element of the Gardening Club, and in addition to eating healthy, the club also encourages students to stay physically active through organized exercise. To "connect the mind, body and spirit," the club is hosting an outdoor guided yoga event outside of Holloway Hall, Sept.

18, socially distancing students to ensure their safety in participation.

The club is currently focused on planting salad greens in the immediate future and to prepare for the fall season they are in the process of planting pumpkins. If you want to be prepared for this upcoming season, the club plans to make jack-o'-lanterns and produce healthy snacks with the cultivated seeds.

From the promotion of physical health to the advocacy of sustainable living practices, the Gardening Club has components that can improve your daily life and ameliorate the health of our planet. The club plans to meet at the garden Sundays at 4 p.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m., weather permitting with times subject to change in the fall. For more information, contact adraper1@gulls.salisbury.edu or ashumate1@gulls.salisbury.edu.

Staying involved while staying safe

By Stephanie Rivera/ Gull Life Editor

From outdoor movie nights to virtual cooking lessons, Salisbury University is creating ways in which students can be active on campus while protecting themselves from coronavirus.

If you are looking for ways to still be an active member of the community while following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for safe social distancing, the Honors Student Association is the group for you.

The Honors Student Association aims to promote positive social and intellectual interaction and to "build a strong bond with the surrounding community of Salisbury through community service, outreach events, and honors student presence at social activities," president Miranda Skelley wrote on the group. Honors Student Association Vice President Lindsey Ward divulged into some of the ways the organization works within the surrounding community.

"Students can come and see what the Salisbury community has to offer ... we aim to promote different events out within the community that students can do, while also maintaining social distancing," Ward explained on their mission. Ward detailed the events they have already put into motion, such as collabo-



-Members of Honors Student Association- Picture credit to Lindsey Ward

rating with Salisbury University's own Garden Club.

"We meet with the club on their workdays to help within the garden ... there are enough flowerbeds that each student, while wearing masks, can safely social distance and enjoy the outdoors," Ward encouraged.

Ward then detailed their upcoming community adventure, participation in Downtown Salisbury's monthly Third Friday event. On Friday, Sept. 18, the group will orchestrate groups of four to five students to maintain social distancing and walk together to Downtown Salisbury. The theme of the night is "Urban Artscapes," incorporating walking

tours of historic buildings, new construction projects downtown and the progression of "Wicomico Goes Purple."

"We mainly want to show students how to get there safely, and from there they have the ability to explore all of what the Salisbury community has to offer," Ward explained.

If you are not comfortable participating in the event but still want to explore the amazing things the community of Salisbury has to offer, do not fret! A completely virtual event will be held by 3rdfridaysby.com, with an incorporation of artists highlights and community messages.

The Guerrieri Student Union is just

Staying Involved and Safe...

one of the many organizations which is actively helping stop the spread of coronavirus while providing a variety of events that every student can enjoy. One of the most notable additions made by the organization is the incorporation of a "Wellness Check-in Station;" the COVID-19 screening station provides students with temperature screening and hand sanitation, both entirely hands-free.

One of the most campus-renowned activities is the weekly movie events run by the Guerrieri Student Union, although this semester the organization is altering its traditional showings to accommodate the COVID-19 restrictions. Through their integration of solely outdoor viewing with "Movies Under the Stars," students are able to enjoy the latest releases without worry.

Every Saturday, students are able to watch movies and munch on some popcorn under the moonlight, all while maintaining social distancing. From "Dolittle" to "Just Mercy," there is a genre for everyone; enjoy "Birds of Prey" starring Margot Robbie on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. If you're one of the many students keeping away from campus, the Guerrieri Student Union is offering ways to stay connected through a multitude of virtual events.

For students who attended the previous installments of ping pong and pool tournaments in hopes of taking home one of their many prizes, GSU member Jahlissa Bell ensures that those amazing prizes are

still on the table.

"We are in the process of creating more ways to have competitive events virtually and have even incorporated way more prizes than we have in the past ... we want to motivate more students to come online and participate," Bell revealed.

While providing students fun ways compete with their fellow constituents, the Guerrieri Student Union also provides informative virtual seminars ranging from a do-it-yourself series to a budgetary seminar in which you can win prizes. Within GSU's addition of "Fireside Chat" series, each session will incorporate speakers from Health Services, Disability Services and Career Services to give their unique perspective on what they can offer students. This series grants the ability for students to evaluate the variety of services that Salisbury has to offer while remaining in the comfort of your home; the first session takes place on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 5 p.m.

If you are looking to expand your culinary skills, the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership has created its own "Virtual Cook Along," held on



Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. Through this virtual culinary experience, chef and owner of Gather on Broadway Jyll Everman will give step-by-step instructions to create one of her signature dishes: creamy tortellini pasta with shaved veggie salad and pot de creme.

"Although we have had to cut down on a good number of events, we are still here to provide students with beloved events like movie and trivia nights in any way we can," Bell ensured.

Organizations such as the Honors Student Association and the Guerrieri Student Union are just two of the many organizations working tirelessly to create ways in which students can still be active on campus while protecting themselves and their peers. Although our current social climate is unpredictable, students can count on the organizations led by the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership to provide them with safe and fun ways to fill their free time.

For more information on joining the Honors Student Association, contact Miranda Skelley at mskelley1@gulls.salisbury.edu; meetings are held biweekly on Mondays at 6 p.m. through Zoom. For more information on becoming involved within the Guerrieri Student Union, contact swguc10@salisbury.edu or visit room 222 in GSU.

-Guerrieri Student Union "Wellness Check-in Station", Featuring hands-free hand sanitizing stations and temperature screening
Photo credit: Stephanie Rivera

Sports

New additions provide unique future for Capital Athletic Conference

By Nick Lewis/ Sports Editor

Just a few months ago, the future of the Capital Athletic Conference was in question. The CAC now has a breath of fresh air and some flexibility moving forward. According to a release on cacsports.com, the CAC Board of Directors voted unanimously to make six institutions full members of the conference: University of California Santa Cruz, Finlandia University, Mills College, Mount Mary University, Pine Manor College and Pratt Institute.

The new members come by way of the American Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Director of Athletics and Campus Recreation at Salisbury University Dr. Gerry DiBartolo noted the enthusiasm of the new schools when it came to joining the conference.

"The timing just wasn't right for a lot of schools that we had contacted," DiBar-



-Capital Athletic Conference logo.

tolo said. "This group of institutions were very interested ... we thought that the unique nature of this conference, with members in California, members in the Midwest and members on the West Coast would be a really interesting concept."

While there are now 11 teams in the conference, that number will shrink to eight for the 2021-22 season. St. Mary's and Southern Virginia both announced their planned departure last year, and Pine Manor will be absorbed by Boston College following the 2020-21 season.

This solution allows for the CAC to maintain the automatic qualifier to the NCAA Tournament, albeit through somewhat unconventional means.

The conference will not engage in regular season play; instead, the conference will have postseason tournaments that determine the winner of the automatic bid for the conference.

The ACAA used the Massey Ratings to determine rankings for postseason play. The ratings consider wins and losses, convincing wins, strength of schedule and more.

For the remainder of this year, the former ACAA schools will continue to use the Massey Ratings to determine postseason rankings. The three original CAC teams remaining will convert to the Massey Ratings for the postseason next year. Both Mills and Mount Mary are women-only schools. Mills competes in cross country, rowing, soccer, swimming, tennis and volleyball.

Dr. Beth Hillman serves as the president

of Mills College and is a Chair of the ACAA Presidents Council. Hillman said Mills looks forward to competing in the new-look conference.

"Mills College is excited to be joining the CAC at a time when working together to support our student-athletes is especially critical," Hillman said on May 26. "Kudos to the many hardworking people and institutions that have made this happen, and I look forward to seeing the Mills Cyclones compete in the new conference."

Pratt Institute became a provisional member of Division III on September 1,

2019. According to a news release from Pratt, they are the only school in the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design to do so.

In its lone year of CAC competition, Pine Manor will compete in men's soccer, men's basketball, women's basketball and women's baseball.

Finlandia and University of California Santa Cruz are the lone new members of the conference that offer both men's and women's sports and will still be members of the conference for the 2021-22 academic year.

The CAC is also expected to receive

a new name and logo in the coming months. All existing conference awards will be maintained.

DiBartolo also noted the added benefit of experiencing single-site tournament style playoffs and being able to travel in ways most Division III athletes do not have the chance to.

"For many of our teams, even when they go to NCAA play, quite often they do not fly anywhere," DiBartolo said. "It's going to provide some really nice opportunities for our student athletes, and we're not diminishing any of the ones they had in the past."

Salisbury coaches facing challenges in the time of COVID-19

By Thomas West/ Staff Editor



Head coach Jim Berkman calls out to his players.

When the news broke back in March that the spring athletics season would not continue at Salisbury University, nobody was quite sure what was to come.

From that point on, COVID-19 has taken its toll on the sports world in a substantial way. Salisbury University athletics have been no exception.

For head men's lacrosse coach Jim Berkman, the past several months has been not only a series of inconveniences but a disruption of the way of life for his program.

"This is our livelihood," Berkman said. "What do lacrosse coaches do during the months of March, April and May? We coach lacrosse. And you just can't do that through Zoom."

One of the biggest areas that the pandemic has impacted the team is with incoming freshmen.

With the closure of Maggs Physical Ac-

tivities Center as well as the University Fitness Club, it has become much more difficult for players to get their offseason work in.

"It's been especially difficult for some of our younger guys to get up to speed," Berkman said. "But our guys have still found a way to get better. I don't think there's a single guy in our program that doesn't have an off-campus gym membership."

Berkman credits many of his upper-classmen, such as Brad Apgar, Jarrett Bromwell and Cross Ferrara, for being leaders during this time and helping the freshmen become acclimated in the most usual way possible.

Perhaps the toughest aspect of this journey for Berkman has been the lack of in-person interaction between him and his players.

"We've just got to get back to life as we know it," Berkman said. "It's hard for us to get better if the guys aren't actually out on the field, and I'm not on the sidelines with them."

Despite the hardships, one area where Berkman said the program was able to maintain some normality was recruiting over the summer.

"For Division III, there weren't as many rules for us as there were for the [Division I] programs," Berkman said. "And most of the summer camps were still going on, so we still had the chance to keep an eye on some of the guys that we were interested in."

Salisbury baseball head coach Troy

Brohawn said his program has also had to make several adjustments to how they approach the recruiting trail.

"Half of the summer was really nothing for us with a lot of the summer tournaments being cancelled," Brohawn said. "On top of that, it's been difficult at times for us to get out and see everybody due to mileage limitations."

One silver lining in this situation for both of these programs is that many of their seniors are expected to return for an additional season, since the National Collegiate Athletic Association granted spring athletes an extra year of eligibility. This, of course, throws a wrench in things as far as future recruiting goes, as both teams will have a reduced amount of roster spots for prospects in the coming years.

Brohawn says the added year of eligibility will make for plenty of competition on the diamond.

"One thing we always tell our guys is 'If you don't love competition, then there isn't a spot for you on this roster,'" Brohawn said. "I expect the added competition to make a lot of guys better."

As for the men's lacrosse team, Berkman expects to bring back one of the more talented rosters he has coached in a while. Considering the program's track record, this speaks volumes about what may be in store for the team in 2021.

For now, both programs continue to adapt and develop ways to get better in the midst of circumstances that are less than ideal.

SU athletes adjust to a fall with no sports

By Brandon Stark/ Staff Writer

On July 21, the Capital Athletic Conference announced the suspension of all Conference championships for the upcoming fall. As a result, Salisbury chose to suspend all fall CAC sponsored sports for the season.

This impacted field hockey, volleyball, men's and women's soccer and men's and women's cross country. Seven days later, the New Jersey Athletic Conference suspended all fall competitions, postponing the season for SU football.

SU's women's soccer team boasted its best season since 2015 last fall. Its season came to an end last season with a 2-1

CAC semifinals loss to York College.

Senior midfielder Brooke Rossiter came into this year following an eight-goal season for the maroon and gold, tied for the team lead.

The Sparta, New Jersey native is one of five seniors on the women's soccer team to see their final season at Salisbury postponed.

Rossiter said she was looking forward to running it back for one more season with her team.

"We were obviously heartbroken, because it's our senior year," Rossiter said.

"I think we really thought that we finally had this team ready to win the CAC, and we truly believe we would have won it

this year."

Many student-athletes across the country are dealing with significant changes to the college life they are used to.

Rossiter said the disruption to this year compared to years prior has required lots of adjustment.

"This semester is definitely a really big struggle for me," Rossiter said. "I'm so used to having a routine with soccer. Now I don't have that."

Rossiter remained optimistic after Salisbury initially suspended sports in the spring that athletics would be back on in time for fall. Rossiter felt that the fall season was far enough away from March for the situation to improve.

However, after seeing other schools postponing sports, the writing was on the wall for Salisbury following suit.

"Me and my roommates and most of my team kind of expected it from the get-go, and we honestly wanted to [play], and we had a false sense of hope, but we kind of figured it would be hard to have a season," Rossiter said.

Despite not having the chance to compete this fall, the close bond Rossiter shares with her teammates has helped her deal with this new reality.

"Our team is very close," Rossiter said. "I've never been on a team that I've had relationships like this much. We're basically a family on this team."

The Salisbury football team finished the 2019-20 season with an 11-1 record and its second NJAC title in five years of affiliate membership. Leading the way for the Sea Gull offense last season was junior quarterback Jack Lanham.

The Prince Frederick native led the Sea Gulls in passing yards, passing touchdowns and rushing yards in his 12 starts. In his free time, Lanham said he has worked on his schoolwork, hung out with his roommates and worked out to stay in shape. Lanham said he is trying to stay focused on improvement.

"I'm just trying to get one percent better every day," Lanham said.

After Lanham saw other conferences making the decision to postpone or cancel their fall sports seasons, he was less than surprised when Salisbury broke the news.

Former player takes the reins for Salisbury softball

By Danielle Tyler/ Staff Writer

Following a storied career from Margie Knight, Salisbury University chose Lacey Lord to take the reins of the softball program.

Like Knight, Lord's time with Salisbury began as a player. She was one of the top pitchers in Division III softball and was named the Capital Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year in 2003.

Lord holds the all-time pitching wins and strikeout record with 105 wins and 1,096 strikeouts. She was also an All-American in each of her four seasons at SU.

She developed her coaching career as a grad assistant under Knight in 2007. Lord spent two years as the pitching coach and took part in the recruiting process.

On June 10, Salisbury University Director of Athletics and Campus Recreation Dr. Gerry DiBartolo stated his excitement for Lord accepting the position.

"She was one of the most decorated student-athletes to ever graduate from SU and continued that success in her coaching career," DiBartolo said in a news release. "We are excited that she is coming home to help continue the great tradition of SU softball."

Lord acknowledged that she has big



Quarterback Jack Lanham carries the ball into the end zone.

"By the time they announced it, I was not really surprised because I had seen other conferences across the country make the same decisions, especially Division I schools doing it," Lanham said. "I was hoping it wouldn't happen, but I was prepared for it."

Lanham said that he was most looking forward to leading the Sea Gulls to another conference championship this season.

With the plan for the return to play for fall sports still up in the air, Lanham remains focused on staying in shape in hopes of the fall season being played in the spring.

"It's super disappointing, but I don't want to dwell on things that I can't control," Lanham said. "If it's out of my control, I let it be. You just got to keep moving forward and staying positive."

Salisbury field hockey had claimed back-to-back CAC championships prior to the 2020-21 season. They also secured a spot

in the NCAA Semifinals last year.

One of the key contributors to Salisbury's success from a season ago was current junior forward McKenzie Mitchell.

Mitchell led the Sea Gulls with 12 goals scored. Like Rossiter and Lanham, Mitchell and her teammates were optimistic they would be able to play this year.

The news of the season being postponed upset the team after all of their hard work during the spring and summer, but Mitchell is grateful that her and the team can still share the field a few times a week.

"At first, we were all upset. The whole team was upset. It's just hard when you and the girls who worked so hard [in the] spring and then over the summer just for it to be [suspended]," Mitchell said. "We're very fortunate that we at least get to go out there and play with the stick and ball."

Mitchell sees a bright side to the postponement of her junior season with the possibility of playing in the spring. She feels the practices in the meantime will help the team gel and prepare the Sea Gulls to make a run at bringing another national championship home to Salisbury, if they are able to play in the spring. "I'm just like, 'Okay, this gives us a couple more months to get ready for possibly a season in the spring so we can win the national championship,' so I'm not really taking this as a bad thing," Mitchell said.



-Lacey Lord.

shoes to fill for the program.

But she said that as much as she wants to live up to Knight's legacy, she has also accepted that she will have her own path to coaching the Sea Gulls.

"I mean [Knight's] a legend. I'm following my own coach, who is a legend, and I did play for her," Lord said. "I also think it's important for me to recognize while I played for her, and I think the world of her, I'm not her."

Lord has now returned to Salisbury after 12 seasons at the helm of the Washington College softball team. In that span, she was a three-time Centennial Conference

process has given Lord the extra challenge of ensuring that her student-athletes and staff are following the guidelines.

When Lord was first named the head coach, she expressed that it was strange being on campus without her staff or players beside her.

"On my actual first day, my daughter had gotten tested for COVID-19, so I couldn't even show up," Lord said. "So, it's nice now that people are back on campus, and we're getting [those] personal interactions."

Moving forward into the spring season, Lord is making sure that her players are

Salisbury Softball continued...

keeping their heads up.

Lord feels that it is necessary to communicate with her players and build a relationship among each other in the midst of the pandemic.

"The biggest thing for me right now is trying to keep everyone's chins up and let them know that we are going to get through this," Lord said. "It is going to take time, I'm still meeting all the girls ... so [I'm] just letting them get to know me and that I'm here for them and [that] our goals don't change in the spring."

Lord made it known that this spring season is going to be unlike past seasons.

She said that they are still going to prepare to work hard and make a push to get to the national championship.

"My goal personally, as a coach is to win a national championship, and I want to be able to do that here, at a place that means so much to me," Lord said. "For me it's not just focusing on that goal, it's the process to get there, so the goal can fulfill itself."

COLUMN: Will fall sports work in the spring?

By Nick Lewis/ Sports Editor

The spring athletic season is a busy time at Salisbury University.

Fans already have no shortage of teams to follow as many of the spring teams compete with some of the best in Division III.

During the spring of 2021, there may be even more sports to keep up with.

As of September 7, all fall sports that were postponed are scheduled to take place during the spring semester. This means that, as of now, 13 varsity sports will be taking place in the same season.

This would undoubtedly be an exciting time for fans and community members.

The opportunity to watch so many different sports at one time is a unique one.

But it also presents some unique challenges that Salisbury and many other colleges may have to confront.

To start, scheduling for these teams could be challenging.

Many Salisbury teams already must get creative when planning their regular season schedules. Now, at least at Sea Gull Stadium, fall teams and spring teams will be competing for time on the field.

The football, men's and women's lacrosse and field hockey teams all play on the football field in the stadium. Trying to divide these four sports among seven days of the week to share the field for games will likely be difficult.

In addition, the situation may require teams to share practice times when teams choose to practice on the main field.

While this is a potential red flag for stadium-based sports, other sports with their own fields have less of an issue. Baseball, softball and the soccer teams, for example, will have less of an issue with this.

Another thing that may need to be addressed could be parking, not only for spectators but visiting teams as well.

With so many sports competing at the same time, there could be potential for several teams, each with multiple buses, arriving to campus around the same times.

More athletes participating in regular season play means a greater number of athletes may need to be monitored than a typical spring season. This could add a unique burden on the athletic training and sports performance staff as they try to keep every student-athlete in the best shape possible.

The mental health and overall adjustment for the student-athletes is critical and cannot be overlooked.

Fall student-athletes have already endured the adjustment to a semester with no sports and a lot of virtual classes. Now, they could have to adjust to the wear and tear that comes with competing in a sport at a time they are not used to.

In addition, many athletes are in or beyond their fourth year at SU. Whether sports are played in the spring or not, some students will have to make tough decisions on whether they will stay and hope for another chance to compete or move onto their next stage of life.

Then, of course, there are the impacts of COVID-19.

It is impossible to know how the spring will look when it comes to the virus. It could be possible that the spring season could be played with minimal precautions in place.

However, there is also the scenario that the virus is just as dangerous in the spring. If this is the case, having four teams share the stadium would have another set of roadblocks.

To start, everything that is touched by the teams would probably have to be sanitized and disinfected. There would need to be a set of protocols in place for visiting teams arriving on campus.

These problems are not all unique to Salisbury University, as many colleges are facing similar challenges. However, these are problems that could impact whether fall sports are able to be played in the spring and how the season looks overall. Despite these challenges, there is still hope that we could see the student-athletes and coaches of the fall sports get their chance to compete in the fall.



Sammy: Sammy the Sea Gull tells all SU students to mask up and protect the flock. (Sports Information)

**WANT TO WRITE
FOR SPORTS?
CONTACT NICK
LEWIS
nlewis4@gulls.salis-
bury.edu**